


OFFICE OF THE CHAIR
JOE A. MARTINEZ, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DISTRICT 11

Memorandum

To: Honorable Commissioner Katy Sorenson

From: Joe A. Martinez, Chairman 

Date: July 25, 2006

Re: Miami Dade Housing Agency (Response to your 7/25/06 Memorandum)

In response to your memorandum, I would like to clarify that the decision to call a Special Board of County Commission Meeting according to Section 2-1, Rule 3.02(A) of the Code of Miami Dade County, Florida can be made by any one of the thirteen County Commissioners accompanied by six signing in agreement. My original memorandum sent to you this morning stated my position and my position only as to why I did not agree with holding a meeting at this time and exercising my right to not sign in support of such. However, please be advised that the Commission Chambers have been made available and appropriate staff notified should you hold said meeting.

While I agree that the Board of County Commissioners needs to deal with these issues, I will reiterate that the time for this to happen is not now. We have a professional County Manager that is preparing a report for us to review and discuss with him in a public forum and he has also assured me that he is also addressing personnel related matters pertaining to the issues that have been raised. To this end, the Manager issued a memorandum today outlining the first step in this process by reassigning the Documentary Stamp Surtax Program to the Finance Department until the proper controls and procedures are implemented. Once we have the Manager's detailed report and that of the County's Inspector General, we can then make prudent decisions on what policy changes need to be made or what new policies need to be considered in order to prevent this from reoccurring in the future. This Commissioner Sorenson would be in my opinion, a prudent and responsible approach to address these issues and ultimately make the necessary changes in the process to safeguard programs that were intended to serve the neediest in our community and not a knee jerk reaction to the crisis at hand.

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Furthermore, I will be creating a task force/panel comprised of County Commissioners (I would hope that you would accept a role in this process) that will be tasked in reviewing these reports and inviting the Mayor to participate in an effort to assure that all issues are addressed and the best legislative approach taken to make sound public policy decisions that will ensure the programs' success and ultimately safeguard the taxpayer dollar and restore the public's confidence.

If you should have any questions please call me at (305) 375-5511.

JM/jim

Cc: Honorable Mayor Carlos Alvarez
Honorable Vice-Chairman Dennis C. Moss and
Members of the Board of County Commissioners
George Burgess, County Manager
Christopher Mazella, Office of the Inspector General
Murray Greenberg, County Attorney